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Bittersweet to the End

The Hispanic Film Series Opens To Big Crowds

By Salma Turrubiartes
STAFF WRITER

Does anybody remember “El Grito”? It’s a Spanish phrase mentioned in the classrooms of our neighboring country, México, commemorating September 16, 1810. A bicentennial ago that day, the priest Hidalgo in the town of Dolores, Guanajuato, started ringing bells calling the people to stand and fight in order to claim their independence from Spain. A hundred years later, on November 20, 1910, the town’s people rose up and claimed their freedom from President Porfirio Díaz. The University of Houston-Downtown can also commemorate this day thanks to Dr. Ana-Maria Medina, whose popular Hispanic Film Series begins this Spring 2010 with Mexican cinema to celebrate “Mexico 2010 Bicentenario Independencia y Centenario Revolucion”.

This is a great way to share a different cultural experience. All the films will have English subtitles for those who do not speak Spanish.

All films will be playing at UHD in room A405 at 08:00 pm on Thursday on the given dates. It’s free and open to the public. The first film, “El Norte”, played on January 28, followed by “Rudo y Cursi”, “Sexo Pudor y Lagrimas” will play on February 25, “Y tu Mama Tambien” will play on March 11, “Amar te Duele” on March 25, “La Ley de Hérodes” on April 15, and “Amores Perros” will play on April 29.

Each movie is selected when Dr. Ana-Maria T. Medina creates a list of movies and forwards it to other faculty for feedback and suggestions. About thirty students show up to the film series and there is still room for even more. When asked why students should come, Dr. Medina states that “it’s a way to break from the monotony to break away from home and work”. According to Dr. Medina, students come to watch a movie, relax, enjoy a different culture, learn a new language, and have dinner with their buddies on the way out.

This event is actually a revival to a Hispanic Film Series previously run by another professor. Last fall, Dr. Medina restarted it because she enjoys immersing her students in the Spanish language. She has only been teaching Spanish here for two years, and will soon be leaving UHD. It’s unknown who will take her place or whether they will continue the Hispanic Film series for the Fall 2010 semester. But like the recurring theme in many of these movies, most of us need to live life en el momento, or in the moment.

SEXO PUDOR Y LAGRIMAS

Image via Google Images

“Sexo Pudor Y Lagrimas” is just one of the many films that are showcased in the Hispanic Film Series at UHD. All of these Spanish language films contain English subtitles. Most of these films take place on Thursdays in room A-405. This semester’s Hispanic Film Series is meant to celebrate Mexico’s Bicentennial celebration through Mexican cinema.

Staff Appreciation Day

By Alexis Rylander
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Student Government Association (SGA) had a staff appreciation day to celebrate the efforts of the University of Houston-Downtown employees everyday. Students are indebted to the various staff whose jobs range from cleaning up the school to fixing computers. This appreciation day within the SGA office had food for the UHD Staff to take freely. This event was held on Friday since most students try not to have a Monday through Friday class schedule. With Friday as an ideal day to celebrate our workers, no sandwich was left uneaten and the SGA successfully provided lunch for our dedicated employees.
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A brand new season of "The Sarah Silverman Program" will begin airing on Thursday, February 4 at 10:30 p.m. Season three will come with 10 all-new episodes. In each episode, Sarah will fall into unique, unsettling and always hilarious predicaments, with her sister (played by real-life sister Laura Silverman), her nerdy gay neighbors, Brian and Steve (Brian Posehn and Steve Agee) and dim-witted Officer Jay (Jay Johnston) never far from her side.

In the premiere episode, "The Proof is in the Penis," Laura wants Sarah to "man-up" and start taking responsibility for her life, so she falsely informs her that she was born a hermaphrodite. Sarah accepts her manhood and decides to move into the woods and live off of the land. Meanwhile, Brian and Steve are haunted by the ghost of Mr. Jenkins (Jon Schroder) and must dig up his grave and replace the remote that killed him in his corpse's chest.

In follow Sarah this season as she takes on pedophile vans, rigs a mayoral election, and takes a stance on "Real Time with Bill Maher." In addition to that, Andy Samberg, who Sarah thinks of as a "cute little bunny," will guest star as Sarah's imaginary childhood friend.

The show has been highly successful, receiving numerous positive reviews. Silverman was even nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for her performance on the series. Silverman will soon be considered an author when her book, a memoir, "The Bedwetter: Stories of Courage, Redemption and Pee," debuts in stores on April 20. With a book and a successful show, it is quite obvious that Silverman wants you to know about the most important thing... her! Unlike her lead-in, Demitri Martin.

Lessons from Priest with Demitri Martin

By Aldo Gino Cruz

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Two-step to the Light Rail
The Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show Begins

By Brittany Musgrave
STAFF WRITER

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is an annual event here in Houston that spans two months, and is filled with fun activities. By bringing people from all over the world to our very own city of Houston for 77 years, the rodeo will begin in February with various dances, wine tasting, trail rides, Go Texan Day, parades and so much more.

Bridging February to March is the Rodeo Cook-off; this big barbecue contest occurs the weekend before the main rodeo events start. During this event, teams compete against each other for awards and titles for best barbecue. Many different people get together to form these teams such as families, groups of friends and company sponsored teams. Even radio stations get involved and host their shows out at the rodeo.

Rodeo Cook-off. After this, preparations begin for this year's rodeo. When the tents go down and the carnival goes up, shops open in Reliant Center, the animal judging starts, and concerts begin. Various artists within the genres of popular and country music will be present throughout March bringing much rodeo goers to Reliant Stadium, which is a single Light Rail ride away from UH-Downtown.

There you can buy range of items like cowboy boots, hats, belt buckles, jewelry, clothes, cars, hot tubs, tractors, and lawn mowers that are available for viewing and purchasing as well. As a staple for Houston, the rodeo doesn't happen overnight and certainly not without the help of the ever loyal rodeo volunteers.

Rodeo volunteers are the ones who make the rodeo happen. From directing traffic, to helping lost rodeo goers, the volunteers are all around. They also come in a variety of ages ranging from 16 all the way to up to 50s and 60s. The most common age group is the 21 and up age group. Anyone under 21 is on the Junior Rodeo Committee or JRC.

The JRC is filled with kids ranging in age from 16 to 20, even 21 depending on birthdays. Most of the volunteers are college kids, people who used to be in the rodeo themselves, or have families with roots deeply embedded in the rodeo. Committee members get to be a part of a Houston tradition, and help make the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo a memorable occasion for anyone.

There are many committees that help create the Rodeo. The Transportation Committee is the committee that drives the Ford Trams, and the golf carts around, giving rodeo goers a ride; the Hospitality Committee helps take care of the bull riders and their families by serving food, and keeping snacks readily available; there are committees that help out with the buses and help run the satellites, which are the various lots where you can catch a bus and ride it out to Reliant park in order to avoid the traffic on Interstate 610; and other committees help judge various contests, look after shops, and help lost kids find their parents.

These are just a few of the committees that are part of the rodeo, and the JRC gets to help out on all of them. Committee members get to be a part of a Houston tradition, and help make the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo a memorable occasion for anyone. If anyone is interested in attending the rodeo or being a volunteer, go to HLSR.com for all the information you could need.

New York Art Exhibited at O’Kane Gallery

By Natalie A. Reyes
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The O’Kane Gallery here at the University of Houston Downtown has been honored with the privilege of exhibiting a collection of early academic drawings from The Art Students League of New York. The league has been known to be populated by amateur and professional artists alike since 1875. The exhibit, entitled “Drawing Lessons,” consists of the works from students who were taught within the league by well known American artists such as Kenyon Cox, H. Siddons Mowbray, Frank Vincent DuMond, George Bridgman and others. Many of the drawings are charcoal on paper dating back more than a hundred years. The exhibit also showcases the study for the seal of The Art Students League of New York, created by Kenyon Cox.

All of the pieces within the exhibit are studies of the human form and are practice sketches done within a classroom; because of that you can get a close look at the approach used by the students and can find many of the pieces to be unfinished or surrounded by practice sketches or smudges were the charcoal was manipulated. The achievement of having this exhibit here at our University is not only a great opportunity for students of the arts, but for all students who want to experience the growth and development of our campus. "Students from New Orleans are set to arrive on February 20 to create their own copies of selected drawings in the gallery," says Mark Cervenka, Associate Professor of Art and Director of the O’Kane Gallery. Aside from The Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery located within The Art Students League of New York, the O’Kane Gallery is the only other gallery to show this exhibit. The exhibition will be shown from February 4th thru April 1st in the O’Kane Gallery located in the One Main building.
Three’s Company
Powerlifting Wins Third Consecutive Title

By Aldo Gino Cruz and Michael Zamora
STAFF WRITER

On February 6, 2010, the University of Houston Downtown Powerlifting Team won its third straight national title. Judges gave the team a perfect score. "It was really amazing," said Wilson Marinero, a weight lifter in the 181 class for UHD. "We were all really proud to win out in such a close competition." That competition came in the form of the University of Texas at San Antonio. They pressured UHD all the way, but in the end our team came out on top by a score of 260-244. "I would just like to thank coach [John Hudson]," Marinero continued. "He has always been very patient with us. Without him, our team could not have won."

Although UHD placed 1st as a team, co-captain Ian Rojas had an astonishing individual performance. Rojas received 1st place in two categories, bench press and dead lift, accumulating 165 points, earning 1st place overall. Prior to this competition, our power lifting team attended the World Bench Press and Dead lift Championships, in Reno, N.V., back in October, where they had a strong showing. Whether they have to lift hundreds of pounds or study for a midterm, our lifters are constantly under pressure. Aside from being highly successful outside the classroom, our lifters are also required to meet certain academic requirements. In order to compete, a lifter needs to have at least a 2.5 GPA.

The team was founded in 2007 by Dr. Coach Hudson, but despite its short existence, the team has proven to be very talented. Given that the team has no entrance requirements, the majority of the current team members didn't have any experience prior to seeing POWER on page 8

New Coach and Team Win
UHD Men's Basketball

By Derrick Wiley
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS WRITER

The University of Houston Downtown Men's Basketball Team started their climb back to the top of the Intramural Basketball League on Friday. With a new coach, Leon Trimmingham and a team of 15 players, this should be a very strong and successful season for UHD. Friday also brought Sam Houston State to town looking to copy their girl's team early success. UHD had never played Sam Houston State before, so the players were anxious to see how good they would be. Again UHD set the tempo with their early hustle and defense. Sam Houston quickly responded with a run of their own. Sam Houston's shooting guard, Xavier Workman, gave UHD plenty of problems with his 12 first half points, while UHD had more of a balanced first half with 9 players scoring. Same as the girl's game, the game was close at halftime with UHD leading 24-22. As the second half began, UHD again set the tempo with their aggressive defense. Third year veteran Stephen Kidd and first year acquisition Jourdan Isom gave UHD the burst they needed to take control of the game. Isom scoring 17 points and Kidd scoring 12 gave UHD a lead that would relinquished. The final score was 56-46 in favor of the UHD Gators. This was a big win for UHD who's team has 12 new players.

Denied at the Buzzer
UHD Women's Basketball

By Derrick Wiley
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS WRITER

On Friday, February 5th, the University of Houston Downtown Women's Basketball Team suited up against Sam Houston State in pursuit of their third championship in three years. With five returning players and the acquisition of another five strong players, UHD has high hopes for this season. Friday's contest was going to be a statement game for UHD, as Sam Houston State lost only one game last year and handed UHD a 43-33 defeat. As the see WOMEN'S on page 8
"The Constitutionalist"  
Going for Gov. For the First Time

By Travis Alford  
STAFF WRITER

In a phone interview with Debra Medina, the Republican candidate running against Rick Perry and Kay Bailey Hutchison for the primary election for governor of Texas, I presented questions that would give readers a sense of Medina as a person and where her beliefs originated.

Medina has lived in south eastern towns of Beeville, TX and Wharton, TX for most of her life and has been involved with politics for nearly twenty years. Her political roles include the Wharton County GOP Chairman and Interim State Coordinator for the Campaign for Liberty, a political organization founded by Ron Paul which focuses on reeducating both public and political entities about constitutional meanings and laws. She announced her bid for governor in 2008.

Medina's main issues that will be pushed during her election involve the individual's right to gun ownership, the end of property taxes, securing the border between Texas and Mexico and using that border to its full advantage as far as legal trade and immigration, and another point which her web site calls, "Restore Sovereignty", which involves similar issues as that of the Campaign for Liberty organization.

She fully believes that understanding the Constitution and Bill of Rights is an important part of being a politician because of the many unstated implications that are left open to discussion at the state level.

After thanking her for calling I got right to it with "who is Debra Medina?" She replied, "wife, mother, registered nurse, have a little cattle business and have lived in Wharton, Texas for 20 years. I've been a political activist for 20 years and I'm frustrated with the Republican Party leadership. I was asked a year ago to run for governor, and initially, I said no. It was such a huge task, but when nobody stepped up I finally committed. I want the Republican Party to do what they say they are going to do." She dashes with my first question, which displays her powerful speaking abilities and her passion for Texas. Medina replied to her with a quote of her own, "Courage is action in the face of fear," which was meant to convey that her actions, courage and bravery for the state of Texas is inspiring. Not once did she avoid a question or relinquish excitement.

She calls herself "a constitutionalist," so I asked her, "Debra Medina, what is a constitutionalist?" She answered me immediately saying, "Article one section eight of the U.S. Constitution defines what the federal government has the power to do. I'm not advocating anarchy, but when the federal government doesn't address an issue the state of Texas should have the authority. In the case of education the state should have authority and challenge the federal government to override their illegal federal mandates. More money to the state with no strings attached, and I mean no strings attached, period."

The final question for Medina involved how close we are to the primaries. "You are less than one month out from the Republican primary election. How do you feel?" She replied, "I feel really good! I want to encourage people to vote who have not voted before. I believe you will see a turnout in this republican primary in Texas unlike you have ever seen before. This campaign believes we will win this race." As we said our goodbyes I thanked her for giving the University of Houston-Downtown an inside interview with the lesser known Republican candidate, Debra Medina.

Christina Rodriguez contributed to this report.

Issue 1, vol. 44 of the Dateline profiled the candidates running for the Texas Gov. Position. We acknowledge that due to an unintentional error, candidate Medina was not featured in our profiles.

"The Humanitarian"  
Running for Gov. After Running Houston

By Travis Alford  
STAFF WRITER

On February 2, I was able to interview the former Mayor of Houston Bill White, the Democratic candidate for governor of Texas, but as I arrived at his office I received a call from an unfamiliar number. "Travis? It's Bill White. Listen, I'm running a little late this morning and I'm truly sorry. I'm almost to the office now. Can we start the interview on the phone and finish it in person?" Well of course, Mr. White. Let's get to it.

Bill White was born in San Antonio, TX and attended Harvard University, followed by his attendance at University of Texas School of Law. He was the Energy Secretary under President Bill Clinton in the early 1990's and has been a successful lawyer during the time he hasn't been active in politics. He served as Mayor of Houston for three terms and was unable to run again due to term limits. During his time as Mayor of Houston, he was able to tackle a variety of issues, such as pollution, illegal possession of guns, initiating the SafeClear program which focused on keeping roadways clear of stalled or stopped vehicles, reducing the high school dropout rate, and reducing flood damage around the city. He was also able to offer some of Houston's space to evacuues from Louisiana when Hurricane Katrina hit and was awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

"First question, do you believe in second chances?" He paused for a second. "Yes." White would always pause before he answered. "Next question, who do you consider your moral leader?" A full fifteen seconds later, he answered, "the moral guide of my faith is Jesus; the moral public figures who were inspired by a deep sense of moral purpose were Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King." This answer fully lined up with the next statement, "I'm inspired by your John F. Kennedy award for your efforts during the time of Katrina. What do they mean to you?" He replied that, "At the time of Katrina I never considered that there would be any reward or recognition for simply doing the right thing. Sometimes public leadership means doing what needs to be done and not complaining or whining. I shoot straight with the public and know the people of Texas are capable of incredible things," which further demonstrates how White believes in Texas and the people that hang their hat here.

As we hung up I walked towards his office. Mr. White was turning the corner with a duffle bag on each shoulder. He stopped next to me, put down his bags, stood for a picture and talked for a few minutes. Who knew I could get this interview through Facebook?

Christina Rodriguez contributed to this report.
Argentine Tango is Hot. Female needed for professional dance lessons and 7PM-9PM Friday night group practice. Bellaire Area. Dance experience helpful but not required. Brian - 713-298-8793

Textbooks bought and sold, new & used, online buybacks. Buy, sell, rent at cheapbooks.com; 260-399-6111 Español, 212-380-1763, urdu/hindi/punjabi 713-429-4981, see site for other support lines.

Editor for UHD student newspaper needed for 2010-2011. The Student Publication Advisory Committee is seeking applicants for the position of editor for Dateline:Downtown, the student run-bi-weekly newspaper at UHD. Flexible beginning date, but candidates must commit for the entire 2008-09 academic year. Duties include working cooperatively with student business manager and student advisor, developing and managing a stable group of student freelance writers to cover news and events on campus and in the campus neighborhood of NoDo. Must know page-making software program Adobe InDesign. The paper needs stories written both in advance of, and as a follow-up to, events of interest to students, including student life, academics, university administration, and student government, as well as cultural coverage of theatre, film, music, and the arts. Typical commitment is 20 hours/week. Qualifications include at least sophomore standing; at least one semester at UHD; successful completion of basic writing and/or communications courses; and the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications are sought immediately and will be accepted until April 28 or until the position is filled; include names and phone numbers of two references. To apply, download application from UHD web site and forward via e-mail to Dateline advisor, Dr. Chiaviello at Chiaviello@uhd.edu.

Women's
Continued from page 6

Game began, UHD quickly set the tempo with their hustle and scrappy play, but Sam Houston State quickly adjusted to the game play. The first half belonged to UHD's newly acquired small forward Teya Warner, who led all scorers with 11 points, but it looked like the rest of the players had a hard time keeping up with her effort offensively. The lack of scoring let Sam Houston State back into the game and with a 21-21 tie at the half, it was anyone's game.

As the second half began, both teams had a hard time finding an offensive rhythm. Soon, however, Sam Houston State started to flex their muscle and gain control of the game. All of a sudden, UHD was playing Sam Houston's game, which made it hard for UHD to score points. UHD missed a lot of easy lay ups that killed momentum, which played into Sam Houston's favor.

Another reason for UHD's lack of scoring was the missed free throws, as they went 6-14 from the charity stripe. Sam Houston's shooting guard Essence Thompson caught fire in the second half, scoring 10 of her 15 points.

Even after all of their mishaps and miscues, UHD still had a chance to win. With 7 seconds left, UHD had the ball driving up the court when Shar' Dae, UHD's center, quickly passed the ball to Chenvia Vinson, UHD's shooting guard, who had a shot to tie the game, but the ball was blocked at the buzzer sending UHD to a 40-37 defeat in their opening game.

Power
Continued from page 6

Joining. However, this hasn't stopped Coach Hudson from making some of them national champions. Dr. John Hudson is an associate professor of the English Department at UHD. He has been with the team since it was first formed in 2007.